



## **Volunteer Opportunity: Board of Directors**

Position start date: June 2022

Application deadline: May 31, 2022

Wage: Volunteer (unwaged)

Hours: Casual part-time, estimated time commitment of 7 hours per month

### **LifeCycles Overview:**

At LifeCycles, we believe that food is at the heart of thriving, diverse communities and a healthy planet. Our work creates learning experiences that transform and strengthen our connections with each other and the natural world. We strive to improve both food literacy and food security on Lekwungen territories (Greater Victoria area), while fostering biodiversity and enhancing our urban environments. LifeCycles runs several programs that reach different demographics and meet diverse needs within our communities. These projects include:

- the Growing Schools program, which delivers food and agriculture-related educational programming for public school students,
- the Welland Community Orchard, which is a unique urban agriculture site for demonstrating and teaching organic tree fruit production,
- and the Fruit Tree Project, which engages teams of volunteers in gleaning and processing fruit from urban trees every year.

For more details on our projects that LifeCycles, please visit our website:

<https://lifecyclesproject.ca/>

### **Commitment to Equity and Diversity:**

LifeCycles operates on the unceded territories of the Lekwungen peoples, namely the Esquimalt, Songhees, WSÁNEĆ, and T'Sou-Ke nations. As a settler-led organization, we are constantly working through the harms that have been inflicted by colonial food systems and trying to discern what our roles must be in dismantling the systems of oppression that underpin food (in)security. Many of our practices, including: our organizational structure, the seeds we plant, the trees we harvest, the ways we educate, and our methods of growing food, came to these lands through the ongoing processes of settler colonialism and Indigenous dispossession. We seek to hold this understanding in our interactions and engagements with this land and its people.

We welcome and celebrate applications from individuals of diverse and marginalized identities, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+ folks, disabled and neuro-divergent people, youth, and anyone with lived experiences of poverty, food insecurity, or homelessness. We strongly value the perspectives, voices, and experiences of everyone in our community and hope to include these voices in all the work that we do. We recognize that there can be many significant barriers to participating in un-paid Board work, especially for individuals of marginalized identities.

If you would like to apply but are concerned about any barriers you may face, we encourage you to reach out to us to discuss how we might be able to facilitate your participation in our organization.

### **Board of Directors Overview:**

As a non-profit registered charity, LifeCycles' operations are overseen by a volunteer Board of Directors, which comprises up to 10 members. The role of the Board is to ensure that the organization is upholding its mission and is accountable to the needs and interests of the community it serves. The Board steers the organization towards a sustainable future by adopting sound, ethical, and legal governance and financial management policies, as well as by making sure the nonprofit has adequate resources to advance its mission.

The time commitment required of Board members is estimated to be 7 hours per month. Board member terms are three years. We are currently accepting applications for the Board of Directors to be appointed at our Annual General Meeting on June 28, 2022.

### **Monthly Responsibilities** (all Board members)

- Attend monthly board meetings on Monday evenings. Meetings are typically 1.5 hours in length.
- Prepare for monthly board meetings by reading program reports, financial reports, and reviewing previous board meeting minutes.
- Support board/organizational activities by taking on tasks such as event planning and being a part of committee work, as required.
- Attending to email communications on an interim basis between meetings, as required.

### **Annual Responsibilities** (all Board members)

- Elect a four person executive consisting of a Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Determine an annual work plan for the board.
- Serve on a committee (each board member will sit on a minimum of one board committee, committing to approximately five meetings per year and attending to interim communication as required).
- Participate in up to two strategic planning meetings with LifeCycles staff.
- Review and revise the constitution, bylaws, and standing policy and procedures of the organization as necessary.
- Attend the Annual General Meeting.

### **Relevant Experience:**

Examples of relevant experience and desirable attributes for a position on the LifeCycles Board of Directors includes, but is not limited to:

- Knowledge of and interest in topics related to sustainable food systems, including food security, agriculture, Indigenous food sovereignty, decolonization, youth food literacy, and how food-related issues intersect with race, class, gender, ability, and other aspects of social identity.
- Experience working or volunteering in the non-profit sector, or previous Board Member experience.
- An understanding of food and environment-related issues on Lekwungen territories.
- Self-reflexivity, compassion, authenticity, and openness to change.

- Experience in policy development, human resources, and administration.
- Skills related to financial management and budgeting.
- Clear written and verbal communication.
- Event planning, fundraising, public speaking, and group facilitation.
- Ability to make decisions cooperatively, using a consensus-based model.
- Strong leadership skills and ambitious vision for the future of LifeCycles.

**To apply:** Please send a statement of interest to Jess Gunnarson, Nomination Committee Chair:  
jess.gunnarson@icloud.com

**Deadline:** May 31, 2022